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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,522	11/26/2003	Jean-Jacques Codani	GIO-001.01	8678

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FOLEY HOAG, LLP
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EXAMINER

CLOW, LORI A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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12/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/723,522

Applicant(s)

CODANI ET AL.

Examiner

Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-22,26-33 and 47-57 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-22,26-33 and 47-57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/21/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' response, filed 4 October 2007, has been fully considered. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claims 2-22, 26-33, and 47-57 are currently pending. Claims 1, 23-25, and 34-46 have been cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement filed 21 March 2006 has been reconsidered. Reference CC has updated by the Examiner to include the publication date of 1999, as provided by Applicant in the response of 4 October 2007. A signed copy of PTO forms 1449 is included with this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 2-22, 26, 27, 32, 33, and 47-57 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter for the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action and re-iterated below. A statutory process must include a step of a

physical transformation of matter, or produce a concrete, tangible, and useful result [State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group Inc. CAFC 47 USPQ2d 1596 (1998)], [AT&T Corp. v. Excel Communications Inc. (CAFC 50 USPQ2d 1447 (1999))]. *Additions to the previous rejection are necessitated by amendment.*

Claims 2-22, 26, 27, 32, 33, and 47-57 are directed to a method for “comparing a first sequence and a second sequence” comprising steps that do not include a physical transformation of matter. The steps further include determining alignments, associating errors, comparing alignments, computing percent identities, and outputting a result. As it is not clear **what result** is output, as only a result is recited, the claims remain non-statutory because there is no concrete result recited (see 112, 2nd rejection below).

Therefore, the instant claims continue to encompass non-physical (i.e. *in-silico*) method steps which do not result in a physical transformation of matter. Where a claimed method does not result in a physical transformation of matter, it may be statutory where it recites a result that is concrete (i.e. reproducible), tangible (i.e. communicated to a user), and useful result (i.e. a specific and substantial). In the instant case, the claims do not recite a tangible result such that it is useful to one skilled in the art. For these reasons, the instant claims are not statutory.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

1. Applicant contends that the claims have been amended to "specify useful, concrete, and tangible results". The amendments to the claims recite, "based upon the computed first percent identity and second percent identity outputting a result to at least one of a user, a storage device, a computer, or a display".

This is not persuasive. As stated above, it is not clear that a specific, concrete result is output, such that it is tangible and useful. Merely outputting "a result" without specifying what the result is, does not constitute statutory subject matter with respect to the instantly claimed method steps. It is not clear that what is output as a result is the actual result of the method step, i.e. a comparison of the steps represented by sequence identities or some other intended result. Therefore, the claims remain non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2-22, 26-33, and 47-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. *The instant rejections are necessitated by amendment.*

Claims 4 and 47, as amended, recite "based upon the computed first percent identity and second percent identity outputting a result to at least one of a user, a storage device...". It is unclear what output is intended. It is not clear that "a result" is the result of the instant method steps. Further, what about the percent identity is "a result" based upon"? Clarification through clearer claim language is requested.

Claims 5 and 7 recite, "the mismatches". There is insufficient antecedent basis in the claim for "mismatches", as claim 4 and 6, respectively, do not recite "mismatches". Clarification is requested.

Conclusion

The outstanding rejections under 35 USC 102(b) have been withdrawn in view of the claim amendments incorporating limitations of claim 4 into an independent claim.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Inquiries

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The Central Fax Center Number is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori A. Clow, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0715. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marjorie Moran can be reached on (571) 272-0720.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

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LORI A. CLOW, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER



December 23, 2007
Art Unit 1631